IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A <u>system and method in which a</u> fluorescent light flicker characteristic of an XY addressing type image pickup device such as a CMOS image pickup device is accurately detected and reliably and sufficiently reduced<u>. This is achieved</u> through ~~a simple~~ signal processing without using ~~an~~ <u>a</u> photosensitive element regardless of the level of a video signal of a subject and the type of a fluorescent lamp. A signal In'(x,y) is an RGB primary color signal or a luminance signal, each containing a flicker component. The signal In'(x,y) is integrated over a duration of time equal to or longer than one horizontal period, and a difference value between the integrated values of adjacent fields is normalized by the average value of the integrated values of three consecutive fields. ~~The normalized difference value gn(y) is discrete Fourier transformed to extract a spectrum thereof, and a flicker coefficient .GAMMA.n(y) is estimated from the extracted spectrum to calculate In'(x,y)/[1+.GAMMA.n(y)].~~

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